

direct our attention and prayers to the memory of the vast number of victims who died in these tragic events.

It is in the interest of all of us and in the interest of mankind that this type of tragedy not occur again. The leading organizations of the Armenian-American community have been seeking to work within our political system for a statement concerning these critical events in their heritage.

This year in the House of Representatives that vehicle is House Concurrent Resolution 47, honoring the memory of the victims of the massacres of Armenians, of which I am proud to be a cosponsor. No one can deny these events and the centrality of these events in modern Armenian history. I am proud to be associated today with my colleagues on this important day of remembrance.

I would also like to salute the Republic of Armenia, which continues to move forward in its democratic and economic reforms. This country of 3.3 million people is already developing important ties with the United States. Americans have an interest in the economic development of Armenia, its progress toward a free market economy, and its development of democratic institutions. We want to work with Armenia and its neighbors to insure peace, stability, and progress in their search for greater freedom and security. There is no better way to honor the misdeeds of the past than rededicating ourselves to a better future.

Today in Europe, we have a chance to advance the cause of peace and stability more vigorously and on a wider scale than ever before. I salute all governments, private organizations, and individuals, including the Armenians, who are working toward this end. I hope that their efforts will make the world a safer place, where innocent people no longer suffer the unspeakable crimes of war and terror.

TRIBUTE TO EDGAR BRONFMAN, PRESIDENT, WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, on April 24, 1996 the Senate Committee on Banking held a hearing to return the missing Jewish money, deposited by many Jews before the Holocaust, to their survivors. I would like to commend Mr. Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress for his tireless efforts and his dedication to obtain a full and independent accounting of Jewish and Nazi assets in Swiss banks. Mr. Speaker, I ask for you to have the testimony given by Mr. Bronfman at this hearing inserted into the RECORD, and I hope all my colleagues will take the time to read these important words.

TESTIMONY OF EDGAR M. BRONFMAN, PRESIDENT, WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, WORLD JEWISH RESTITUTION ORGANIZATION

Mr. Chairman, I want to commend you for holding these hearings and for the outstanding job your staff has been doing in ferreting out information long lost or concealed. That which you are doing is of great historic significance. Our collective mission here is nothing short of bringing about justice. We are here to help write the last chapter of the

bitter legacy of the Second World War and the Holocaust.

Today, Mr. Chairman, I am acting in my capacities as President of the World Jewish Congress and as President of the World Jewish Restitution Organization. I am also testifying on behalf of my Co-chairman, Mr. Avrum Burg, the Chairman of the Jewish Agency.

The WJRO was created in 1992 by the leading international Jewish organizations and the survivor's groups to coordinate claims for the return of Jewish community property and the transfer to the Jewish people of heirless holdings. We also work to secure for individual Jews no longer resident in the countries in question the same rights that would obtain for local Jews who remain. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit as part of my formal testimony, the list of the international organizations that make up the WJRO. [List to be appended]

The WJRO has also been designated by two successive Prime Ministers to represent the State of Israel in these matters. It has also concluded agreements with Jewish Communities in several countries in order to coordinate restitution efforts.

I hope it will not sound presumptuous, Mr. Chairman, but I speak to you today on behalf of the Jewish people. With reverence, I also speak on behalf of the six million, those who cannot speak for themselves.

The issue before us today, the one I want to talk to you about, can be summed up in a single word: Justice.

Fifty years after the Holocaust, as Germany and the collaborationist countries have sought to face their responsibilities and make restitution, there remains the glaring void in the behavior of the banks of Switzerland.

Just a year ago today, the bipartisan leaders of the United States Congress declared in a letter to the Secretary of State, and I quote:

"It should be made clear to the countries involved that their response on this [restitution] matter will be seen as a test of their respect for basic human rights and the rule of law, and could have practical consequences on their relations with our country. It is the clear policy of the United States that each should expeditiously enact appropriate legislation for the prompt restitution and/or compensation for property and assets seized by the former Nazi and/or Communist regimes. We believe it is a matter of both law and justice."

President Clinton has declared:

"We must confront and, as best we can, right the terrible injustices of the past. I thus support the efforts of the World Jewish Restitution Organization and the World Jewish Congress to help resolve the question of Jewish properties confiscated during and after the Second World War."

Mr. Chairman, I wish to personally commend Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat for his contribution to this effort. President Clinton assigned him a special mission to assist in this task while he was the United States Representative to the European Union, and although he returned to Washington earlier this month to become Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade, he will continue his efforts as Special Envoy on Property Claims in Central Europe. He has been doing an outstanding job serving the interests of all Americans, not only Jews.

I would also like to take this opportunity of adding that the European Parliament unanimously added its voice to that of the United States, expressing the same view and declaring that restitution is a matter of justice which must be fulfilled.

Mr. Chairman, as the Congressional letter made clear, what today's hearing is about is

"respect for basic human rights and the rule of law." Nothing less.

I am not here to talk about whether there is only \$32 million remaining in Swiss banks belonging to Holocaust victims and survivors or, as may be closer to the truth, several billion. Nor am I ready to endorse those who say the records were purposely destroyed and the money confiscated.

When I met with the Swiss Bankers Association on September 12, 1995 in Bern, I was struck by one comment they made to me. "Mr. Bronfman," they said, "we do not wish to hold on to one Swiss franc that is not ours."

I told them that I certainly agreed with that sentiment. I explained to them that the World Jewish Congress initiated activity aimed at the recovery of Jewish property even before the war in Europe ended. In November 1944, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the co-founder of the World Jewish Congress raised the issue at the War Emergency Conference in Atlantic City. He declared then:

"The principle that Jewish assets must be given back to their legitimate holders wherever possible must be regarded as inviolable."

Now that the Swiss Bankers have told me they accept this universal principle, Mr. Chairman, I ask that you, your Committee, this Congress and our Government help the Swiss Bankers fulfill their own wish not to hold on to a single Swiss franc that is not their own.

A word of concern, Mr. Chairman: time is running out for those who will be the primary recipients of this restitution. Knowing you as I do, I am confident that your investigation will be thorough and will result in the full exposure of the facts.

At the aforesaid meeting in Bern September last, I did not discuss dollar amounts. What I sought was an impartial audit. I came away thinking that we had agreed on that, but in February, the Swiss Bankers Association unilaterally announced they had done their own survey and had found only \$32 million—an amount that defies credibility.

"Trust us," they told the victims of the Holocaust, "we looked into our records and our own vaults and that's all we could find."

One of the documents already uncovered and released by your own investigators, Mr. Chairman, suggest that at a single Swiss financial institution, the present values of deposits may be nearly that much alone.

Mr. Chairman, as you may know, heading these two organizations is not my only job. I am also a businessman.

As a businessman, I often deal with bankers. I know that the most important asset any banker can have is his reputation, the trust of his customers. If we cannot have faith in the integrity and trustworthiness, in the honor of the banker to protect our deposits, to give a faithful and accurate accounting, then we must go elsewhere.

Dealing with the Jewish people must be for the Swiss bankers and issue of trust.

What is urgently needed, Mr. Chairman, is a transparent mechanism to conduct a verifiable audit of all Nazi-era assets, those deposited by Jews and those assets stolen from the Jews by the Nazis and also deposited in Switzerland and their disposition so that all the parties involved can be satisfied justice has been served.

The Swiss bankers cannot be permitted to come back and say, once again, that they will create such a process, but that they want to be the ones who appoint the auditors. Their repeated failure of integrity over 50 years has forfeited for them such a privilege. There must be an arm's-length process that is credible to the entire world.

There is already much to learn from the very beginning of the documents uncovered

by your Committee and by others working elsewhere. They demonstrate that during the Nazi era the Swiss were far from neutral. Their assistance to the Nazi war machine, through the clandestine conversion of looted gold into Swiss francs, enable the Germans to buy fuel and other raw materials they needed to prolong the war. Some estimates in testimony before the U.S. Senate hearings following the War suggest the cost may have been staggering in the lives of American soldiers, Allied soldiers, Jews and other civilians across that continent.

The Germans were looting synagogues, schools, museums and the bodies they were about to toss into the ovens. They snatched works of art. They took wedding rings and gold teeth and melted them down. They cast ingots that were falsely marked to appear as if they were pre-war gold and, as records are showing, they took it to bankers who were only too willing to look the other way.

Mr. Chairman, many Jews in Central Europe, and many others in those countries, saw the Nazis coming and made the trip to Switzerland because they thought their assets could be held safely there. They put their faith in Swiss neutrality and the integrity of that nation's banking system. It appears they were betrayed.

Only through a full, fair and impartial audit can we uncover the truth. I would hope the Swiss bankers will cooperate fully in this endeavor as it appears to be the only way to deal with this crisis in confidence they have created and has been called into question by so many.

Mr. Chairman. I do not propose here a discussion of specific amounts of money. Yet, I believe that each dollar recovered represents a little piece of dignity, not just for the survivors who will benefit, but for all mankind who will have demonstrated that it remains morally unacceptable for anyone to profit from the ashes of man's greatest inhumanity to man.

MEDICARE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office has recently reported that Medicare is in far worse shape than the Clinton administration originally led the American people to believe. Left unchecked, Medicare beneficiaries face losing coverage and in the process our children will be robbed of the benefits of a balanced budget.

Last April, the Clinton administration predicted the trust fund would take in \$45 million more this fiscal year than it would spend. Instead, it is \$44.2 billion in the hole in just the first half of this fiscal year.

According to a new CBO study, the trust fund will be in the red \$443 billion by the year 2005. That \$443 billion figure represents the extra money the Government would have to add to the trust fund over the next decade to pay for benefits through the end of 2006. Even with the honest numbers of the CBO, the President and his advisers refuse to recognize the grave situation facing Medicare. My Republican colleagues and I have faced the challenge head on.

We have proposed measures that will not only save, but improve Medicare. The President has consistently refused to come to the table. He would rather make this an election-

year issue, demagoging Medicare and scaring our seniors.

Medicare's problems are much more serious than President Clinton and his Medicare trustees will admit. It is now apparent that more is needed than the same old smoke-and-mirror gimmicks this administration relies on.

THE TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the Senate Concurrent Resolution 55, making corrections to the Terrorism Prevention Act and adopted on April 24, 1996, under a unanimous-consent agreement, made a number of substantive changes to sections in the jurisdiction of the International Relations Committee. I am very supportive of the goals of the Terrorism Prevention Act and am concerned that several of these changes may actually undermine U.S. efforts to address the terrorism threat.

I am astounded that these changes were made at the last hour, without even a single call to the minority members of the International Relations Committee. The issues involved are troubling and far-reaching—not technical. They require a full airing by the committee of jurisdiction to understand all the ramifications for U.S. security and foreign policy concerns. Had I had warning, I would have objected to the inclusion of these provisions in a bill to be considered in the House under a unanimous-consent agreement.

First is the change to Section 801, Overseas Law Enforcement Training Activities. In the conference report, this section authorized the Departments of Justice and Treasury to conduct overseas law enforcement training activities "subject to the concurrence of the Secretary of State." This language, requested by the administration, was necessary to ensure coordinated, targeted, and cost-effective overseas law enforcement assistance. The new language permits the Departments of Justice and Treasury to go overseas "in consultation with the Secretary of State." This undermines the Secretary's statutory authority to conduct U.S. foreign policy and raises the likelihood of an explosion of uncoordinated training programs.

I support the Justice and Treasury Departments' law enforcement activities, including their overseas efforts to reinforce the protection of law enforcement in the United States. But we need coordination of overseas training if those programs are to be effective. The State Department, which has the global perspective on U.S. foreign policy, is the only agency with the ability and authority to coordinate U.S. civilian activities abroad.

Next are the changes to sections 325 and 326, which amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. The conference report's section 325 stated the President may withhold foreign assistance from any country, whose government aids the government of a terrorist State. The report's section 326 provided that the President may do the same with regard to governments providing lethal military equipment to terrorist states. The concurrent resolution turned "may" into a "shall," tying the Presi-

dent's hands. The provisions retain a national interest waiver. But, they will complicate and obstruct the President's ability to conduct foreign policy.

We should press other countries to oppose terrorist governments. But we must find creative ways to fight terrorism, not tie the President's hands in making case-by-case judgments in this very important, but highly fluid, area. What does it mean that a third country provides assistance to a terrorist state? Is the President now required to cut assistance to our allies participating in the KEDO program? That program ensures that North Korea does not engage in a nuclear weapons program, and it may be undermined by this new prohibition. Does section 326 now prohibit our assistance to Russia and other emerging democracies in Europe, or our assistance to some of our most important allies? These are the questions we should have fully examined in open and closed sessions before the prohibitions on the President's authority became law.

I conclude by repeating my distress at the process in which these important statutory and policy changes were made. The changes have far reaching troubling ramifications, and should not have been done under unanimous consent without consultation of the appropriate committees of the House.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DORIS PARKER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues of the House,

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention a very special person in my 15th Congressional District who always seems to go beyond the point of commitment.

The woman of whom I speak is Doris Parker, this year's recipient of the Ted Weiss Community Service Award which will be presented to her by the Three Parks Independent Democrats on Sunday, May 5, 1996.

Ms. Parker, who is the widow of the late great musician Charlie "Bird" Parker, is certainly deserving of this award, for her commitment to the community and her tireless efforts, are well known by many.

She serves as treasurer of the 24th Precinct Community Council; recording secretary for the North West Central Park Multiblock Association, Inc.; member of the board of directors for Veritas Therapeutic Community Foundation; member of the board of directors for the Westside Crime Prevention Program; and is first vice president of the Federation of West Side Neighborhood and Block Associations.

These are just a few of the many community outreach efforts that Doris Parker gives her time and talents to.

New York is blessed to have this hard working and faithful community activist, and I am proud and fortunate to be able to call her my friend.

Doris, this is for you.